


Xavier

magazine

Ateneo de Cagayan

January to March 2013

An aerial photograph of Macajalar Bay, showing a coastal town with numerous small houses and buildings along the shoreline. The water is a deep blue, and many small boats are anchored in the bay. A large, long pier or breakwater extends into the water, with several larger buildings and structures on it. The sky is clear and blue.

Engaging
new horizons in
Macajalar Bay

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Engaging New Horizons in Macajalar Bay

Mars P Tan SJ, McKeough Marine Center

Macajalar Bay borders north of Misamis Oriental on the Mindanao Island, Philippines. It is a part of the Mindanao Sea that receives water from the Pacific Ocean through the Surigao Strait and from the Sulu Sea through the Dipolog Strait. The bay mouth is 30km wide and encompasses a 30km coastline covering an area of 1000 square km. Fourteen municipalities and cities share the long stretch of the bay's coastal area. The bay hosts a variety of marine ecosystems and is the main source of marine products for Misamis Oriental and certain parts of Region 10. Three major rivers feed into the bay: Cagayan de Oro River with its mouth in Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City; Tagoloan River located in the bay's eastern side; and Iponan River in the west.

Xavier University's work in Macajalar Bay started in the late 1980s with Fr James McKeough, SJ pioneering the marine studies in the bay. Dr. Dulio Cossentino in her article in *Paglabad* (Vol. 2 Issue 2) mentioned these research studies spearheaded by Fr Jim together with budding marine scientists in the region. Interesting to note are the kinds of marine researches conducted, such as on the physicochemical parameters of certain fish species, hydrography of the bay and its relations to select fishery species and their biological processes, and biological and chemical pollution in the bay. Later, Mr. Mike Angenon and some XU Biology teachers also made ecological surveys on the conditions of coastal ecosystems in the bay. To date, McKeough Marine Center (MMC) still keeps the ecological and fishery assessment in the bay as a regular annual activity but it took on additional programs such as conservation of select marine animals and of their habitats. MMC also began to engage in the creation and development of collaborative types of organizations and systems with other establishments for effective governance and management of the bay and its resources. Further, it has adapted a ridge to reef (R2) research framework for a more integrated approach to the entire catchment and the bay. Below are the present MMC engagements as related to the bay.

Fluxal sediment profiling in Macajalar Bay (R3)

Since October of last year, two months before Typhoon Pablo struck the

city, our team of four (Gule Acos, James Barredo, Asa Cardeno and myself) has been conducting a monthly sediment plume sampling in Macajalar Bay. At exactly dawn, we would load the sampling equipment onto the motorized boat and thus, get our feet wet in the cold brown-silted water of the bay. The brownish coastal water would be stirred with all kinds of garbage thrown by households nearby. Not far from us, small children would enjoy an early morning bath in the waste-deep colored water. The early morning sun would promise a bright day. So, afraid to get our sites overly tanned, we would cover up. Being on board a small and light boat truly tested many times by mid morning waves would be dizzying but we would need to work two hours more before we could enjoy our sumptuous lunch!

Portions of the bay right outside the Cagayan de Oro River mouth running parallel the heavily populated coastlines and extending a kilometer eastward and westward have been delineated as study sites. The sampling is part of the ridge to reef study that aims to draw connectivity between the Cagayan de Oro river catchment and the province's Macajalar Bay. Specifically, the study focuses on the upland fluvial sediment (the sheet flow of brownish water emanating from the river channel) and its year-round movement patterns and persistence in the bay given the changes in monsoonal winds, tidal currents and rate depth contours. To update the topographic map of the seabed after Typhoons Sendong and Pablo, MMC has carried out bathymetric surveys within the 1 x 2 square km site close to the river mouth. The sampling's parameters are the basic physical variables

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5 years of bringing culture and the arts to the region

Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts successfully celebrated 5 years of delivering, managing and implementing programs not only for the XU community but also for Northern Mindanao. XCCA doubled its 4th cultural season as Kultura Singko Celebrating 5 Years of Culture and Arts Excellence. Included in Kultura



The final phase of the Museo renovation will start in May



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Singko are various projects that forwarded the priority programs and mission of XCCA and contributed to Xavier University's Development Goals.

Museo de Oro had a soft opening of its archaeological and historical exhibit (room 1) on September 21, 2012 after its phase one renovation. With the help of Mr. Jose Jaime Ignacio, Architect Ernest Soriano, Dr. Elinora Burton and all the personnel of Museo de Oro, the exhibit room transformed into a high end, more appealing and well organized display of artifacts and other Museo de Oro collections showcasing the history and heritage of Cagayan de Oro.

The curatorial work of Dr. Elinora Burton, the design of Mr. Penares "Nenoy" Estarte and the collections of Fr. Francisco Derosier SJ are the base framework of the new Museo de Oro.

Collection Management and Restoration projects are also being implemented with grants from the National Commission of Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Artistic Excellence and Production has been a great achievement of the XCCA for 5 years now. The Office has received positive feedback that

the performing arts companies and other art groups have flourished and promoted Xavier University not only in the region but also in the country. These performing arts companies have formed and honed the artistic potentials of the students, faculty and staff through various trainings and production of performance dance, music and theater. They have also promoted our Filipino culture and have contributed to one of the missions of XU to promote and protect the Mindanao culture. Through their regular performances, the students as well as the faculty and staff are given avenues to appreciate better and be involved in promoting and protecting our rich cultural heritages facilitated through the performing arts and



other allied arts.

Xavier University Cile Club led the Cagayan de Oro choral community to collaborate in a unity concert titled "Hugang Bangla." For two years, the XU Cile Club has been spearheading the project. In 2011, Hugang Bangla was showcased in the Intermediate Conception Chapel at XU and in 2012, the said concert was staged at Capital University.

In February 2013, the company staged The Greatest Gift: Faith, Hope and Love featuring liturgical and love songs. The Greatest Gift was XU Cile Club's contribution to PANAGHUPONG 5 - Xavier Arts Festival.



Dulang Ateneo's 14th season KAWOMENON was successfully implemented. KAWOMENON included plays "Ang Pseudomakig sa mga Nalunod sa Buring Dugay" (Buring Awad) - a team 181 production and "Piano Kung Hindi Ka Na."

Piano Kung Hindi Ka Na was DA's final entry to the 7th Targhal Mindanao University Theatre Festival.

Dulang Ateneo is also known for its innovative theatre form. Their production "No Prob... it's Improv!"

The Xavier Stage (TXS) and Xavier Philharmonic are two new companies. The two-year old TXS has been featured as main entry in various national theatre festivals including the National Theatre Festival in 2011, and 6th and 7th Targhal University Theatre Festival. CCF PANAGHUPONG 2013, TXS' second theatre season titled

"Experience Modern Theatre" aimed the company's goal of promoting the works of modern dramatists Rabinowitz, Tagore, Paul Duroi and Bertolt Brecht.

In November 2013, DA together with XCCA will host the first ever Ateneo Theatre Festival that will showcase the various theatre companies from the various Ateneos in the country. Included in the fringe feature are DA's series: The Xavier Stage and XU High School's drama club.

Xavier University Cultural Dance Troupe has been featured with other dance companies and continues to build reputations of dancers based on the dance pedagogies that it is developing. The company successfully staged "Cultural Ka Bal" a production that challenged the audience to appreciate the Filipino culture through dance. Both the matinee and gala shows of "Cultural Ka Bal" were well attended.

XCCA's film festivals are much anticipated and well celebrated by the Northern Mindanao community. XCCA is successful in partnering with the National Commission on Cinema (NCCA), CINELA Inc., Goethe Institut, the French Embassy, Ricardo Long Center for Chinese Studies, the Central Program for Cultural Cooperation of Institute Cavantes and SM Cagayan de

Constantly, the Museo de Oro showcases art works from multi-awarded and well renowned visual artists in Cagayan de Oro, such as Michael Bacol, Enol Balicas, Ota Florendo, Juan Macarabon, Jake Vamenta and other Oro Art Gold members. Various art exhibits have been held in the Museo de Oro Gallery since 2008.

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28 Culture and the Arts

FIVE YEARS OF BRINGING CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO THE REGION

Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts celebrates five years



Athletics round up

by Vincent L. Padilla

The University Athletics Office (UAO) is still going strong towards various programs and activities even as school year 2012-2013 closes.

For this summer, in coordination with the Athletics Office of the Grade School and High School, UAO is organizing the Fr. Jorge P. Hofferla SJ Crusaders Camp, a sports camp named in honor of the late XCCA principal and basketball coach. This summer's Fr. Jorge P. Hofferla SJ Crusader Summer Camp has a 194

participants undergoing training in the main campus, in addition to those who are training in the XCCA campus, for basketball, volleyball, football, table tennis, chess, badminton, swimming, taekwondo and karate.

Too, this school year, the UAO was involved in various activities and programs, namely: the College Internship, the COSA Games Season II, the Barkadahan Tournament, the Inter-council Sportsfest, the

ongoing Cross-Exchanges, the 1st College Alumni Basketball and Volleyball Games, Coaches-Formations, and the Faculty & Staff Wellness, Fitness and Sports Program.

In September 2012, the UAO re-launched the Faculty & Staff Wellness, Fitness and Sports Program with a Fun Walk and Run. The Wellness Program is an offshoot of the 1st Strategic Planning of the Faculty & Staff Wellness, Fitness and Sports Program stakeholders who identified areas of concern. As a result, the UAO facilitated and organized different activities (Basketball every Tuesdays and Fridays, badminton every Tuesdays and Thursdays, aerobic Exercise every Saturday morning, and lately every Tuesday and Friday evening), to provide venues for the faculty and staff to be physically engaged. Aside from the programs and

activities, the UAO officially opened the Weights (Fitness) Gym also for the use of the faculty and staff. Currently, only 20 members of the XU community, excluding varsity players, are using the weights gym during their free time or after classes in the afternoon.

Apart from the activities organized for the XU community the office also engages in different community outreach programs, namely: Grow A Tree, Save The Future, initiated by William Malagar and Resboy Salvador SSV of the St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy; and the multi-sectoral Dagan Kagan, a fund-raising and memorial fun run in honor of Sending victims and survivors.

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ATHLETICS ROUND UP

The school-year-that-was in sports

MILESTONES

2nd Top performing nursing school, 7 top board examinees

Xavier University emerged as the No 2 top performing nursing school with 50 or more examinees, based on the results of the December 2012 national licensure examination for nurses. The university had a passing percentage of 97.93.

Moreover, seven of XU's graduates landed in the top ten, namely, Ysabel Marie Zubiri, 8th placer (84.20%), Klarc Patrick Gontiñas, Aiko Jane Osa and Dulcinea Soloveres who all placed 9th (84%), and Farah Adap, Kenneth Jun Logroño and Katrina Gracia Mangubat in 10th place (83.80%).



New Doctors

The Jose P Rizal School of Medicine added six more doctors to its roster after the results of the February 2013 Licensure Examinations for Doctors. The successful examinees are Elaine Dawn C Butron, Sherwin Joseph R Lacaden, Al Eisen Jezreel A Pajantoy, Mildritz B Rara and Rose Mary Y Ricafort. XU garnered a passing rate of 83.3%, above the national passing rate of 48.67%.



New Lawyers

Xavier University produced seven new lawyers in the October 2012 Bar Examinations. These are Dionel O Albina, Welan C Calag, Dorren T Dejarne, Ryan D Ferraren, Maichel Rick A Macarayan, Lawrence Leo K Pelaez and Junald Rubino. XU's passing percentage was 23.33, higher than the national passing rate of 17.76%.



BPI-DOST science awardees

Three XU students were recognized for their endeavors in the field of research by the Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI) Foundation, Inc and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The BPI-DOST Science Awardees were Sugar Estrada, BS Chemical Engineering; Janssen Blaise Jumau-as, BS Chemistry; and Lanesa Faith Mechicho Olais, BS Agriculture. They each received a cash prize of P25,000 and a trophy.



Real Estate Service Exam 8th placer

Eric Justini E Damasing, Electrical Technology 1986, BS Commerce Major in Marketing 1991, MBA 2002, finished 8th place in

the real estate broker licensure exams in March 2013 with a score of 83.25%.



XUHS alumnus in solo exhibit

Jericho Vamenta, XUHS '93, held his first solo art exhibit titled "Everyday Epiphanies" at the 3rd Level Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati from Feb 7 to March 8. Jericho is a painter and sculptor. He won the grand prize in the 2011 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence and the 2012 Philip Morris Art Awards. Jericho has also been holding summer art classes at Museo de Oro for 16 years.



School of Medicine's Level II PAASCU Accreditation

The Dr Jose P Rizal School of Medicine was granted a Level II Accreditation status for five years by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), an organization composed of different private schools which accredits programs that meet standards of quality education.



Athena Awards for outstanding college teachers

Higinio Barros Jr of the Chemistry Department, Rogelio Lee of the Psychology Department and Dr Ramona Heidi Palad of the College of Nursing took home the Rookie, Junior and Senior awards, respectively, in the First Athena Awards of the Xavier University Confederated Parents and Faculty Association held on Feb 1 at the Little Theater.

The Awards give tribute to college faculty members who have dedicated themselves to the holistic formation of students. The winners each received a trophy and a cash prize of P10,000, P20,000 and P50,000 for the Rookie, Junior and Senior categories, respectively.



20th Service Awards

Xavier University gave formal recognition to its community members who are to retire this school year and those who have rendered 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of faithful service to the university during the 20th Service Awards. Speaking on behalf of the retirees was Ms May Flores who has been with Xavier University High School for 38 years.



A new Provincial Superior for the Philippine Jesuits

by Fr Mars P Tan SJ

Philippine Jesuits have a Provincial Superior who heads all Jesuits in the Philippines. Unlike the Jesuit Superior General in Rome whose term of office is lifelong, the Provincial has a six-year term of governance of the entire Province made up of some 300 Jesuits, their ministries, and various institutions.

Fr Antonio Moreno SJ, a Kagayanon, and currently the President of Ateneo de Zamboanga University, has been named as the 11th Provincial Superior of the Philippine Jesuits. He received his appointment from the Superior General, Very Rev Adolfo Nicolas SJ. He succeeds Fr Jose Cecilio Magadia SJ who will be assigned in Rome as the new General Assistant for Formation. Fr Tony finished grade school, high school, and college at Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan. He joined the Jesuits in 1983 and was ordained a priest in 1993. He has

a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Wales, Swansea, UK. Before his assignment in Zamboanga, he taught social sciences at Xavier University and later served as Dean (Arts and Sciences) and Vice President for Social Development. At present, he is the Vice President of the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and the President of the Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi Association of Private Schools (ZAMBASULTAPS).

Fr Tony always finds time to come home to Cagayan de Oro to visit his mother and to officiate Masses and conduct other priestly ministries for his many relatives and friends.

He will begin his term as Provincial on June 12, 2013 and will then be based at the Province Curia in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. □



Fr Patxi Alvarez SJ visits XU

The Director of the Social Justice and Ecology Department of the Society of Jesus, Fr Francisco “Patxi” Alvarez SJ, graced Xavier University on Jan 16-19. While at XU, Fr Patxi visited Xavier Ecoville, the XU-led resettlement site in Brgy Lumbia for Sendong survivors, and met with the unit heads of the Research & Social Outreach, and Mission & Ministry clusters of the university.

Fr Patxi also shared to students, faculty and administrators some relevant Ignatian characteristics for justice promotion - gratitude, friends of the poor, *magis*, interior knowledge and friends in the Lord.

“Justice promotion is the task of all Jesuit institutions,” Fr Patxi said

He urged that, just like Ignatius, we should see reality “from the perspective of the poor and for the poor” and “behave out of love.” He emphasized that *magis* doesn’t speak of competition but of giving our best.

However, he cautioned that there will always be resistance and tension. The challenge is for us to take a critical view of reality to be able to understand what is really needed.

“The world looks very different depending on where you are,” he said.

He added that the promotion of justice requires communal discernment. It involves prayer, commitment and communication. □



JVP helps survivors of Sendong

The Jesuit Volunteers Philippines Foundation Inc (JVP) is extending help to its direct beneficiaries who have lost their homes to

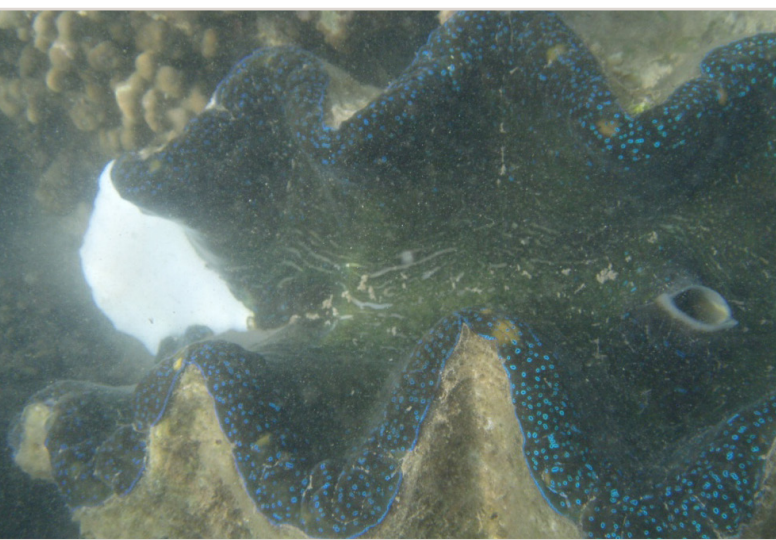
Typhoon Sendong by funding the construction of their houses at Xavier Ecoville, the resettlement community in Barangay Lumbia led by Xavier University.

More than 500 housing units are currently being constructed at the relocation site, in addition to community facilities such as a multi-

purpose hall, a chapel and a toy library. JVP's donation of P330,000.00 will be used to build the houses of three of its direct beneficiaries now residing in the temporary shelters at Xavier Ecoville.

JVP is a lay organization that aspires to contribute to nation-building by promoting volunteerism. For

at least a year, young men and women assist schools, NGOs, missions and social development agencies by serving as volunteer teachers, youth formators, parish workers or community organizers in areas where volunteers are greatly needed.



MMC conducts 4th giant clam monitoring

On February 16, researchers and staff members of the McKeough


Marine Center (MMC), together with volunteers (four Marine Biology students and one from SAMDHANA Institute), conducted their 4th giant clam monitoring activity this school year in Agutayan Island, Jasaan, Misamis Oriental.

Aside from recounting and re-measuring the clams, the

monitoring also aimed to remark the sites of giant clams in deep water areas and to note the vibrancy or dullness, particularly the bleaching marks, of the clams' mantles. Out of the five sites, three sites were monitored and documented completely, namely, the shallow (seagrass area), rock site and artificial reef. Divers in the other two deep water sites encountered problems due to strong surface waves and underwater current and could not complete the work. Data, when completed, will then be compared with the previous ones for significant differences and observations.

Upon returning home, the 16-person monitoring team aboard a large dive boat had

to contend with the stronger afternoon waves which were the main reason why the monitoring had to be stopped and rescheduled to a later date.

Next school year, MMC hopes to conduct a more regular monitoring activity to get a better picture of the clam community status and the reason for the continued decline in their population. The Center has drafted a revised Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for proposal to stakeholders to strengthen the protection and management of this beautiful endangered species. 



XU engages in movement for good governance

by Lezlee Amor R Escalante

Students of Xavier University joined hands with other Kagayanons for a better Cagayan de

Oro during the grand launching of the Kagayanon for Good Governance (KGG) Movement held on February 16, 2013, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon at the Patrick Cronin Hall, San Agustin Cathedral. The Movement aims to promote good governance through a more engaged and intelligent electorate.

The activity started with a short program to introduce the crusade, followed by a walk for good governance from San Agustin Cathedral to Divisoria and back. The activity commenced with a press conference where representatives of the KGG answered questions from the media.

Present during the said activity were representatives from organizations comprising the KGG core group, namely, the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro – Social Action Center, AGGAP, PPCRV, Namfrel, KKP-SIO, Balaod Mindanao, XU Batch '70, XU Batch '72, XU-CSG, Group Foundation, XU Central Student Government, XU Psychology Society and XU NSTP; and COMELEC Officer Atty. Aleli Dayo-Ramirez, youth from Carmen and Lapasan, media partners and students from Sacred Heart of Jesus Montessori School.

KGG hopes to educate voters on their rights and responsibilities as members of a single community. Xavier University's Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO) acts as secretariat for the Movement. □

PNOY visits Xavier Ecoville

President Benigno Aquino III, on Feb 26, visited the community of Xavier Ecoville, the Xavier University-led resettlement neighborhood for Sendong survivors.

Fr Roberto C Yap SJ, president of XU, together with representatives from the Department of Public Works and Highways, the National Housing Authority, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, welcomed President Aquino. Also present were representatives from Habitat for Humanity Philippines, XU's partner in building the houses.

The President was given a tour of the Xavier Ecoville model house before he met and addressed the community. He assured them that their concerns will be given proper attention and that he is working closely with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to open up more livelihood opportunities for them.

"The government has only one goal, that is to serve and take care of its constituents," President Aquino said. He also appealed for the community's support.

"Nothing is impossible if we work together," he said.

The President was in Cagayan de Oro to see some of several ongoing projects of the city. □



SISAT students to do on-the-job training at Manresa Farm

Xavier University through its College of Agriculture inked a partnership agreement with Saint Isidore School of Agricultural Technology (SISAT) at Zamboanguita, Bukidnon for the practicum training of SISAT's students at the Manresa Farm.

The partnership is for horticulture and animal production students of SISAT to hold their on-the-job training at XU's experimental farm under the guidance of XU faculty members. The memorandum of agreement signed on March 6 only formalized the tie-up between the two Jesuit-run institutions since XU has previously received two batches of on-the-job trainees from SISAT. The second batch completed their training in February.

With the On-the-Job Training program, XU hopes to assist SISAT comply with the Horticulture NC II and Animal Production NC II programs' requirement for graduating students to be exposed to the field where they can gain experience, and relate and apply theories learned to real situations and problems in the farm. Besides the practical experience, the practicum also aims to help the students develop the self-confidence, motivation and positive attitude required of the profession.

"For the long-term, the college is looking into how the partnership with SISAT can be improved to support the K to 12 program," said Rey Mante, assistant dean of the College of Agriculture.

In addition to the assistance extended to SISAT, XU is also helping to link the Zamboanguita community with Nestle Philippines Inc for coffee production as an alternative means of livelihood for the parishioners at Zamboanguita.



XAVIER UNIVERSITY - ATENEO DE CAGAYAN COLLABORATIVE SERVICE LEARNING THIRD SUMMIT, 20 FEBRUARY 2013



XU organizes 3rd Collaborative Service Learning Summit

by Wilson J Hormeguera

Xavier University, through the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO), organized the 3rd Collaborative Service Learning Summit with the theme "Education for a Climate-resilient and Sustainable Mindanao" on February 20. It showcased the different service-learning engagements of Xavier students with the partner communities.

Students engaged in Service Learning presented their researches in line with the five thematic agenda of the university, namely, Food Security, Good Governance, Health and Sanitation, Environment, and Peace during the breakout sessions.

Under Food Security, Computer Science students presented the ICT support system, which featured price monitoring, digital area map and the XU-Farm website they designed for farmers in Claveria and Balingasag. Civil Engineering students, through the Engineering Resource Center, developed area maps to aid Sumilao farmers in their land use and production planning. The Economics and Sociology students assessed

and analyzed the sustainability of current high value crops farming in Panampawan, Claveria, which led to the formulation of strategies, policy recommendations and an action plan to assist farmers improve their farming practices.

Researches on Good Governance included studies related to Typhoon Sendong done by Psychology students. These were on "Family Resiliency and Community Involvement of Families Directly Affected by Typhoon Sendong," "Resiliency among the Elderly," and the "Social Interaction in the Home and School as Way of Coping for Half-orphaned Children in the Indahag Relocation Site." The studies aimed to contribute to the improvement of government services in these communities.

On Health and Sanitation, Nursing students presented their experience in hygiene promotion in the evacuation sites of Sendong survivors to decrease and prevent the spread of communal illnesses.

Environment studies included the "GIS-aided Autocidal Ovitrap Surveillance and Control of Dengue Mosquitoes at Barangays Lumbia and Macasandig" carried out by Biology students and the "Water Analysis of the Deep Well at Barangay Macasandig" of the Chemistry students.

In the promotion of Peace, students in the Student Volunteer Formation Program of KKP-SIO shared about their work for peace, interreligious dialogue and development in forming leaders, especially in

Mindanao.

The afternoon session was devoted to the Collaborative Service Learning Program (CSLP) institutionalization and partnerships with other colleges and universities. Engr Ermin Stan B Pimentel, KKP-SIO director and forerunner of XU-CSLP, introduced how the Service-Learning (SL) Model has helped XU enhance its teaching, research and social outreach. The model has also reinforced XU's Development Goal on Greater Societal Engagement. He emphasized that the SL Model has also provided "meaningful interactions and learning experiences for both the students and partner communities."

Other than the university administrators, faculty, and students, also present in the summit were representatives from partner institutions such as the Catholic Relief Services, People's Cooperatives of Centro, Palalan, and Baluarte, Lumbia, Lumbia National High School, Baluarte National High School, Xavier Ecoville, Macasandig Elementary School, LGU-Balingasag, Claveria Parish, DSWD and the Social Action Center of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. For the objective of forging university partnerships, extension directors of Central Mindanao University, Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology – Davao del Norte, Bukidnon State University, and Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology – Claveria, Misamis Oriental were present in the summit. □



Xavier Ecoville participates in World Read Aloud Day 2013

by Xyla Mercedita E. Gualberto

Reading books to children bring them to a world without limits. It gives them a sense of appreciation for words, education and the medium used – books. In celebration of the World Read Aloud Day 2013, Xavier Ecoville, the Xavier University-led resettlement community for Sendong survivors in Brgy Lumbia, organized a storytelling session for over 70 children aged 3-6. The Xavier Ecoville staff gave a brief introduction about the World Read Aloud Day to jumpstart the activity. Small groups were formed according to the children's ages. The storytellers prepared books and props appropriate to the children's level of comprehension. This activity aimed to promote literacy and book appreciation among the Xavier Ecoville children. □



Project EMPOWERing: Harnessing local leaders to craft appropriate SDPs

By Stephen Pedroza

Proven often enough, addressing a societal problem is not a one-man show or something that happens overnight. It requires an appropriate and systematic development approach and the collective effort of different stakeholders, namely, the local government at the front line, the academe to conduct studies, the private sector for funding support and, of course, the communities themselves.

In Misamis Oriental, a partnership was forged last September 2011 to fill in the gaps and needs of the local government units (LGUs) in the planning, implementation and monitoring capabilities of their social development programs (SDPs).

Public-Private Partnership

Xavier University, through its Research and Social Outreach (XU-RSO) spearheaded a public-private collaboration, together with STEAG State Power Inc, German Development Agency Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST Asia), a non-government organization (NGO), Department of Interior and Local Government Region 10 (DILG-10), the municipal governments of Jasaan, Laguindingan, Medina, Opol and Tagoloan and the city

governments of El Salvador and Cagayan de Oro.

Project EMPOWERing (Enhanced Monitoring System on Poverty Watch for More Effective and Responsive Approach in Governance) was crafted for greater societal engagement among the stakeholders. This program is an offshoot of the Local Poverty Reduction Action Planning (LPRAP) undertaken by the Municipality of Villanueva in partnership with various public and private institutions.

“The goal of this project is to help the community using an evidence-based approach,” says Dr Hilly Roa-Quaoit, Vice President of XU-RSO on efforts to better equip the LGUs in their poverty reduction measures.

Project EMPOWERing utilizes poverty diagnosis tools such as the Community-Based Monitoring System and

Geographic Information System (CBMS-GIS) in five areas—Environment, Food Security, Health and Sanitation, Peace and Order and Governance.

Results Presentation

The results of the study were presented to the different stakeholders at The Grand Caprice, Lim Ket Kai Center on March 20, 2013.

Lita Sealza, CBMS Project Coordinator, presented the findings on the four LGUs (El Salvador, Jasaan, Medina and Opol) in terms of the various facets of poverty (five areas) using the CBMS Poverty Indicators and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Indicators.

The results, which were laid out in graphs and tables, were revealing of the things and areas

where greater attention and

collaborative actions are needed.

On the other hand, the mayors of the four aforementioned municipalities accepted the challenge of improving the quality of life of their constituents. One goal of this CBMS-GIS Integration Project is to guide LGU leaders in the proper channeling of their resources and social development programs.

After almost two years, the project will officially close this June. Dr Dixon Yasay, Director of XU Governance and Leadership Institute (XU-GLI) says that the real challenge for the local leaders is “the ownership of the information and to utilize the results of the CBMS study.”

“The academe can only provide the expertise and the evidence,” he said. “The information will not be useful unless it is used by the powerful.” □





SIBYA 2 underscores magnitude of investigative journalism

By Stephen Pedroza

“Investigative reporting is beyond conventional journalism; it is about digging deeper into the story,” said Rodrigo “Jiggy” D Manicad Jr, a multi-awarded investigative journalist and senior producer of media giant, GMA Network.

Manicad, together with colleague from GMA News, Justin Joyas, were the keynote speakers of 2013’s “SIBYA: The Second Northern Mindanao Student Communicators Congress” held on February 28 at SM City Cinema 2. Spearheaded by The Crusader Publication, the official student

paper of Xavier University, in collaboration with XU’s Development Communication Society (DEVCOMSOC), the forum on “Investigative Reporting for the Informed Choice” brought together communication students and instructors, budding and seasoned journalists, college and high school publications and media outlets in Northern Mindanao.

Manicad highlighted the role of investigative reporting in exposing the corrupt and anomalous practices of government officials, election-related fraud and the conflict in some parts of Mindanao. Two of his award-winning stories, his coverage of Marine Corporal Angelo Abeto’s story, which was about the military’s incapacity to evacuate their wounded soldiers from the battleground, and the rescue operation of Chinese kidnap

victim Dominga Chu, were shown during the forum.

He also related how Henry Araneta of DZRH called him the day before the gruesome 2009 Maguindanao Massacre to try to persuade his team to lead the media convoy of Mangudadatu. Fortunately for his team, Manicad declined. After the brutality, the Philippines earned the title of one of the most dangerous places on earth for reporters to practice their profession from the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

Manicad, one of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of 2012, captivated the audience with his tales of personal experiences in gathering news and relevant pieces of information from politically sensitive areas and how he cheated death a lot of

times. “Being an investigative reporter is exciting but dangerous at the same time,” he said. “It’s part of the job.”

He also cautioned those who want to practice journalism that this profession is not about glitz and glamour but, “Journalism, per se, is pure hard work.”

With the national and local elections that just concluded, one way to empower the community against election-related schemes is citizen journalism through various social media platforms. Justin Joyas, the GMA News Social Media Producer of YouScoop, the network’s citizen journalism arm, underlined how netizens are reshaping the news media sphere through uploading of pictures and video of “Epal” politicians, vote buying and other news from all over the country.

Joyas’ advocacy centered on the responsible use of social media as a tool to empower the citizens and to promote “cyberbayanihan.” “Though social media has become revolutionary, it has its flipside,” Joyas stated.

The one-day congress also served as an avenue for the Vote or Die Trying (VODT) Concert of the DevCom sophomores to raise people’s awareness on the significance of voting and to educate the public on the country’s current affairs.

As in the last year, various journalism contests were conducted alongside the congress. The first SIBYA on “Social Media for Social Change” was then topbilled by the multi-awarded journalist and Rappler.com CEO Maria Ressa, with colleagues, Patricia Evangelista, Chay Hofleña and Michael Josh Villanueva. □



Macajalar Bay Development Alliance: Conserving the gifts of the seas

by Stephen Pedroza

Did you know that the Philippines is part of a marine region located in the western Pacific Ocean comprising the Coral Triangle, where 76% of the world's coral species live? Our country has one of the the richest concentrations of marine life and ecosystems in the entire planet. No wonder we are

recognized as a "Center of Marine Biodiversity."

The challenge is managing our marine resources in the midst of environmental degradation brought about by rocketing population over the last decade, industrial expansion and other human-induced factors.

Locally, Macajalar Bay is considered one of the most important bays in the Philippines. Aside from being the final catchment basin of the water of Cagayan de Oro River, it serves as a pivotal economic hub for regional, national and even international industries. Located directly north

of Misamis Oriental, coastal communities herein form part of the 40 million Filipinos who rely on the sea ecosystems for food and livelihood.

With the vision of sustainable management of coastal resources in Northern Mindanao, the Macajalar Bay Development Alliance (MBDA) was born in 2008. The establishment of MBDA was spearheaded by the McKeough Marine Center (MMC) of Xavier University, in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH-ACCCoast, to implement Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in

Macajalar Bay. ICM is aimed towards the comprehensive bay-wide management of the upland and coastal wealth or the Ridge to Reef Approach, as well as cooperation and networking among the communities, various government units, the academe and the business sector, to promote sustainable development and climate resiliency.

The Alliance is composed of the Province of Misamis Oriental and 14 coastal local government units (LGUs), namely, the municipalities of Alubijid, Balingasag, Binuangan, Jasaan, Kinoguitan, Lagonglong, Laguindingan, Opol, Salay, Sugbongcogon, Tagoloan and Villanueva, and the cities of El Salvador and Cagayan de Oro. It is one of the largest inter-LGU coastal management alliances in the country.

Part of strengthening the Alliance is the launching of the Marine Protected Areas-Social Marketing Campaign (MPA-SMC) at Basamanggas Resort and Kimaya Fish Port in Jasaan, Mis Or on March 8. The event was graced by the different stakeholders and underscored the significance of awareness among coastal *barangays* on long-term marine conservation





through building Marine Protected Areas and Networks (MPAN).

“The concept of a Marine Protected Area is the same as the concept of time deposit,” illustrates Dr Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, Head Secretariat of MBDA. In a marine sanctuary, there is a “No Take Zone” where fishing and other related activities are prohibited. “MPA allows the fish to meet its partner(s), to multiply and live naturally. In time, it will move out of the zone and, when it moves out, there is what we call as a ‘spillover effect,’” says Dr Quiaoit. “That’s the right time you can get the benefits.”

Hence, there is a need for bay-wide management to setup a network of MPAs in the province, at least one per LGU. However, MBDA’s call to create a marine sanctuary will not be realized without the local government’s commitment. “The academe only has knowledge but the mayors have the power,” states Dr Quiaoit, urging the LGU leaders to use their political will to conserve coastal resources through building an MPA and a Mac-Bay Law Enforcement Unit to ensure protection and security

of the sanctuaries. “It’s really a partnership,” she continues.

Since the coastal areas of the Bay are dotted with businesses, MBDA also targets companies and investors to continue and heighten their engagements toward Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) and boost ‘Blue and Green Investments.’ Lordilie S Enjambre, Executive Director of Oro Chamber, highlights that the management of our biodiversity is embedded with the CSR and it is as important as improving the social and financial status of a business. She continues that industries need to seek environment-friendly business practices.

Oliver L Ubaub, Vice-Chairperson of MBDA, advocates that coastal resource management is not just a role the government should take but is everyone’s business. “The general public should have a part in the Alliance. Everyone should get involved,” he says.

MBDA also engages the national line agencies, namely, the Department of Interior and Local Government, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine



National Police-Maritime, Philippine Coast Guard and the Department of Trade and Industry; non-government organizations, among them the SAMDHANA Institute and the Cagayan de Oro Riverbasin Council; academic institutions such as the Center for Social Responsibility-University of Asia and the Pacific, Mindanao State University, XU- Research and Social Outreach, and various media outlets and other stakeholders.

During the MPA-SMC launching, the Agutayan Island Sanctuary in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental was awarded 2012 Best Macajalar Bay- Marine Protected

Area. The recognition was given by the Director of XU-MMC, Fr Mars P Tan SJ.

At Kimaya Fish Port, stakeholders in attendance unveiled the tarpaulin bearing the slogan “Ang marine sanctuary *ampingan alang sa malahutayong panginabuhian.*”

In 2012, MBDA was recognized by the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 10 for its Sustainable Coastal Resource Management and was given a plaque of commendation for Sustainable Management of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. □



Engaging New Horizons in Macajalar Bay

by Mars P Tan SJ, McKeough Marine Center

Macajalar Bay borders north of Misamis Oriental on the Mindanao Island, Philippines. It is a part of the Mindanao Sea that receives water from the Pacific Ocean through the Surigao Strait and from the Sulu Sea through the Dipolog Strait. The bay mouth is 50 kms wide and encompasses a 30-km coastline covering an area of 1,000 square kms. Fourteen municipalities and cities share the long stretch of the bay's coastal area. The bay hosts a variety of marine ecosystems and is the main source of marine products for Misamis Oriental and certain parts of Region 10. Three major rivers feed into the bay: Cagayan de Oro River with its mouth in Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City; Tagoloan River located in the bay's eastern side; and Iponan River in the west.



Xavier University's work in Macajalar Bay started in the late '60s with Fr James McKeough, SJ pioneering the marine studies in the bay. Dr Dulce Dawang in her article in *Pagtaob* (Vol. 2 Issue 2) mentioned these research studies spearheaded by Fr Jim together with budding marine scientists in the region. Interesting to note are the kinds of marine researches conducted, such as on the physiochemical parameters of certain fish species, hydrography of the bay and its relations to select fishery species and their biological processes, and biological and chemical pollution in the bay. Later, Mr Mike Atrigenio and some XU Biology teachers also made ecological surveys on the conditions of coastal ecosystems in the bay. To date, McKeough Marine Center (MMC) still keeps the ecological and fishery assessment in the bay as a regular annual activity, but it took on additional programs, such as conservation of select marine animals and of their habitats. MMC also began to engage in the creation and development of collaborative types of organizations and systems with other stakeholders for effective governance and management of the bay and its resources. Further, it has adapted a ridge to reef (R3) research framework for a more integrated approach to the entire catchment and the bay. Below are the present MMC engagements in and related to the bay.

Fluvial sediment profiling in Macajalar Bay (R3)

Since October of last year, two months before Typhoon Pablo struck the

city, our team of four (Julie Acero, James Borcillo, Ace Cardeño and myself) has been conducting a monthly sediment plume sampling in Macajalar Bay. At exactly 6 am, we would load the sampling equipment onto the motorized boat and, thus, get our feet wet in the cold brown silted water of the bay. The brownish coastal water would be littered with all kinds of garbage thrown by households nearby. Not far from us, small children would enjoy an early morning bath in the waist-deep colored water. The early morning sun would promise a bright day. So, afraid to get our skin overly tanned, we would cover up. Being on board a small and light boat easily tossed by mid morning waves would be dizzying, but we would need to work two hours more before we could enjoy our sumptuous lunch!

Portions of the bay right outside the Cagayan de Oro River mouth running parallel the heavily populated coastlines and extending a kilometer eastward and westward have been delineated as study sites. The sampling is part of the ridge to reef study that aims to draw connectivity between the Cagayan de Oro river catchment and the province's Macajalar Bay. Specifically, the study focuses on the upland fluvial sediment (the sheet flow of brownish water emanating from the river channel) and its year-round movement patterns and persistence in the bay given the changes in monsoonal winds, tidal currents and sea depth contours. To update the topographic map of the seafloor after Typhoons Sendong and Pablo, MMC has carried out bathymetric surveys within the 1 x 2 square km site close to the river mouth. The sampling's parameters are the basic physical variables

of the seawater: salinity, temperature, turbidity, and total suspended sediments (TSS). By getting a monthly data of these and plotting them on GIS maps using Data Ocean Program, we hope to get an idea of the dispersal pattern of sediment plume in the bay vis-à-vis rainfall, wind, and tidal data, for at least a year. It is believed that the plume cover's direction and persistence on the water surface affects the marine ecosystems present underneath the discolored and less saline seawater. The point in question is not the presence but the impact level of the sediment runoff on the threatened bay resources.

Rapid ecological assessment in selected sites of the Bay (REA)

This research study of MMC on the upland sediments movement into the bay and its potential effects

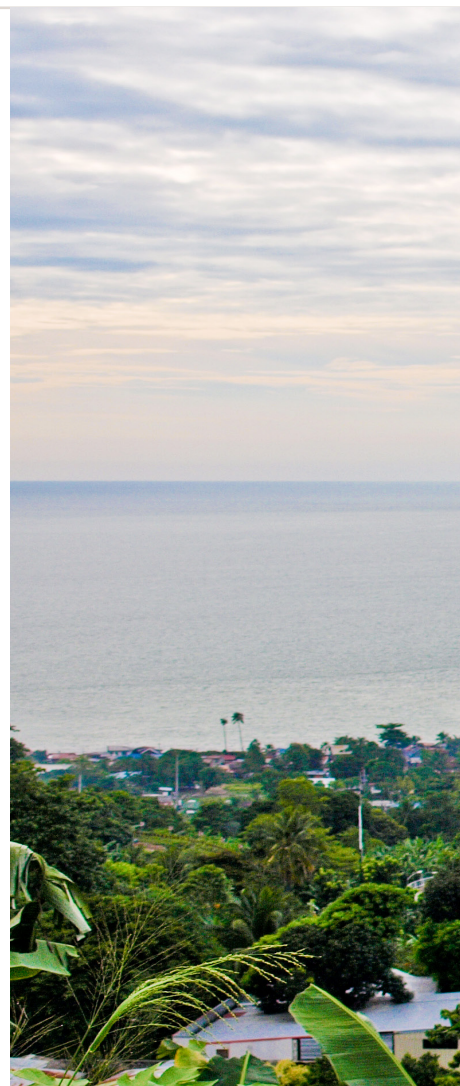
on the marine habitats was prompted by another MMC study on the ecological and fisheries profile of Macajalar Bay. The comprehensive study, published in a book entitled "Ecological and Fisheries Profile of Macajalar Bay 2008," presents a per site report on the ecological status of important marine resources in the bay, such as mangroves, corals, seagrasses, seaweeds, macrobenthic fauna and reef fishes, as collected from on-site samplings of a team of researchers from MMC and the Biology Department (XU) led by Dr Hilly Quiaoit. The sampling sites along the bay coastlines covered a total of 14 municipalities from Laguindingan to Kinuiguitan, Misamis Oriental. It presented the data results in tables and graphs for easy appreciation and understanding of the findings by non-science readers. The baseline profile was intended to be used for future Macajalar Bay management purposes.

The ecological assessment of the bay's marine resources is also a regular monitoring activity of MMC which serves as an outreach activity of the university to the city and to the entire region. REA or rapid ecological assessment of selected bay sites is carried out yearly by a group of MMC and Biology faculty/researchers, along with some marine biology students. But while the regular assessment profiles updated information about Macajalar Bay and its marine resources, the knowledge to identify causal factors to prevailing water and other resources' conditions remain wanting. No science-based study has been made yet to determine the significant stressors to the bay and to identify the sources of these environmental culprits. It is aimed that the ridge to reef (R3 program) study will offer an appropriate framework to understanding upland and bay connectivity, taking into more serious consideration how perennial and persistent anthropological processes, such as pollution, nutrient loading, eutrophication, erosion and sedimentation, must have impacted the lowlands and the bay water through time.

Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council (CDORBMC)

Realizing that the university's individual research efforts may have only little impact in terms of translating data to government policies for better environmental management of affected sites, Xavier University through MMC has also engaged with the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro and the DENR of Region-X as the Secretariat to a multi-

stakeholders' council to protect and manage the Cagayan de Oro River catchment. To date, the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management and Protection Council has taken various efforts to get organizational commitment of member LGUs, national government line agencies, and other private and non-government organizations. With Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ and DENR Regional Director Ruth Tawantawan at the helm, much has been done organizationally, such as the creation of the Board of Stakeholders, the policy making body of CDORBMC, and the formation of technical working groups for the various issues and concerns related to river basin management. Cris Remotigue and Warwin Sabasaje take the lead role in





implementing related projects such as sea urchin grow out, capability training for upland communities and information campaign on the importance of the ridge to reef concept. As experts have said, a well managed and protected river catchment will redound significantly to much less polluted and silted coastal and bay waters down below.

Macajalar Bay Development Alliance (MBDA)

Corollary to the river basin council yet much ahead in its formal creation is the Macajalar Bay Development Alliance (MBDA), which is composed of 14 local government units (including Cagayan de Oro City) located within the Macajalar Bay.

MMC serves as the MBDA's secretariat and treasurer from its formal beginning in 2008 and, consistently, has been the driving force in initiating and supervising various projects and activities of the Alliance toward the integrated coastal management of the bay. Through the initiatives of Dr Quiaoit, Dr Asuncion de Guzman, and Ms Aida Perpetua in 2007, and with the active management efforts of Kris Galarrita and LGU officers, MBDA has successfully enjoined local government leaders and other stakeholders to collaborate institutionally in the management and protection of the bay. To strengthen organizational development, provide expertise in bay enforcement and develop IEC activities, MBDA is assisted by a Development Expert, Mr

Ferit Temur, from the German organization GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

One main aspect of the MBDA program is capacitating the local communities to assess their respective marine and coastal resources within the bay, so participatory coastal resource trainings (PCRA) were introduced and became part of the regular training program. Another important aspect is enhancing the resiliency of Macajalar Bay to climate change by establishing a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and strengthening their management through the Enhancing Resiliency (ER) Program. Fishes know no political boundaries when they spawn and swim, and so our management intervention has

to be collaborative and should take the bay in its entirety, independent of municipalities' territorial domains.

Giant clam community in Agutayan Island

On the marine conservation front, MMC is managing a giant clam community in Agutayan Island, in collaboration with the Municipality of Jasaan. The clam seedlings (*Tridacna gigas*) were placed in the shallow and deep water sites in the island in 2001 as part of UP's Marine Science Institute Project dubbed "7,000 clams for 7,000 islands" to proliferate the threatened giant clams in different parts of the country. Xavier University, through



MMC, got a share of 574 clams and, together with the Marine Ecosystem Council (MEC) of the city, started the giant clam community in the island. MMC conducts regular monitoring and assessment of clams (3 to 5 times a year): their habitat population, growth and development, and health conditions. Findings are documented and made into written reports for the Center's records and for other stakeholders. A research study is being planned to investigate the decline in the number of clams and the bleaching occurrences in several clam individuals for appropriate interventions.

Sea turtle study

Another initiative to conserve threatened marine animal in the bay is the sea turtle study of Fra-and Quimpo. The 6-year study aims to establish a conservation program for the endangered sea turtles and includes important research investigations on the number

of sea turtle species found in Macajalar and Gingoog Bays, their specific nesting sites and feeding grounds, and the direct human impact on these marine animals in the two bays. Several coastal sites in Macajalar Bay provide good hatching grounds for sea turtles. In fact, the present site of the university's Marine Station was found last year to be a hatching place of many tiny baby turtles that were eventually freed to crawl back to the sea. Another breeding site in the Municipality of Magsaysay, Mis Or has been reported to the local authorities for the documentation of hatching events and the protection of the sites from intruders.

Aside from its biodiversity and cultural significance, sea turtles are also important for ecosystem awareness, as protecting the endangered marine animals would also mean protecting the bay, its ecological home.

ISDA (Information Education Campaign Students Advocates)

Aware that environmental consciousness and involvement has to begin early on with the young, MMC initiated a project which has become part of the university's National Service Training Program (NSTP) curriculum requirement for college students. In the first semester, first or second year college students undergo lectures and activities to learn of the importance of protecting and conserving our marine resources. In the second semester, they go to different public elementary schools in the city to share their learnings about awareness and protection of the marine environment. ISDA program aims to form the hearts and minds of the young college students and the even younger ones in the public elementary schools. Two teaching strategies are emphasized: learning from lectures and

inputs, and mastery or deepening through various creative activities and outputs of students. MMC believes that without a successor, the present conservation work may itself become extinct.

Research and Outreach

MMC's present engagements in the bay attempt to marry research and outreach on the whole and in every program. This is in line with the mandate of the university, through the Research and Social Outreach (RSO) Office. However, while there is much yet left to be done and improved in both the research aspects and the outreach component, the ongoing engagements offer great promise for Macajalar Bay and its coastal populations. □

Visit MMC Link: <http://www.xu.edu.ph/index.php/research-and-outreach/community-based-rso/mmc>

MAGIS AWARDS 2013



MAGIS AWARDS 2013

The Magis Awards, the University's foremost award-giving body for outstanding student projects, organizations and individuals who demonstrate Ignatian ideals of excellence and service, gave recognition to 50 student projects, individuals, teams and student organizations.

This year's Awards also featured Damulog, Bukidnon Mayor Romy Tiongco as keynote speaker. He shared about using one's talent to promote the good.

"Pursue magis," Tiongco said. "Our happiness is in serving our brothers and sisters, especially the least."



MAGIS AWARDS 2013

Recipients of the Magis Awards are honored for fostering collaboration and unity with organizations and institutions within and outside the University. As a way of contributing to national development, the search challenges the Xavier University community to engage in community projects and commit to the civic purpose of their chosen fields.



LIST OF AWARDEES

Category A: Project-Based Awards

Fr William Nicholson SJ Award for Campus Project : Tindahanng CONUS - Council of Nursing Students (CONUS)

Fr William Masterson SJ Award for Community Project : KabanayKo, TabanganKo - Philippine Association of Food Technologists (PAFTETA)

Fr Francisco Madigan SJ Award for New Project: Destress - Xavier University Psychology Society (XUPS)

Pedro Calungsod Award for NSTP Community Service : Values Education for Children at Xavier Ecoville (Community-Based) and Scouting Program at Macabalan and Camaman-an Elementary Schools (School-Based)

Category B: Individual Awards

AMDG Award for Outstanding Student Leader: Malcolm C Flores (BS Ac 4), Director-General, Ateneo School for Upcoming Leaders (ASUL)

NSTP Outstanding Student Leader: Hamilcar B. Chanjuecol Jr, BS Development Communications 2

Fr James TG Hayes SJ Dux Gregis Award — School Administrator Category : Dr Ramona Heidi C Palad, Dean, College of Nursing

Fr James TG Hayes SJ Dux Gregis Award — Student Category : Miguel Noel Fernandez, BS Nursing 4

Fr Luigi Moggi SJ Award for Outstanding Moderator : Mr Jason O Manaois, United Arts and Sciences Student Council (UNITASS)

Fr George Hofilleña SJ Award for Outstanding Coach : Engr Rogelio Golez Jr, Chess

St Francis Xavier Exemplar Awards: Team Awards

Edgar Emmanuel D Antiquina, Camelle M Arillo, Ramon Christopher M Calam, George Ezar N Quijado, John Vincent A Rañoña, Neil Ryan P Tecson, 1st Runner Up, Bit the Beez 2012 Electronics Engineering Inter-Scholastic Quiz Show at the Institute of Electronics Engineers of the Philippines — Northern Mindanao Sector last 25 August 2012

Daniele Mae F Tan, Herabelle M Villanueva, 2nd Place, Quiz Bowl Competition, Iligan City Computing Fair at the Mindanao State University — Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) last 21 September 2012

Christian Dave P Quilang, Albert Arca, Jan Francis B Damole, Karl Philip B Abunda, Over-all Champion, Men's Rodeo Skills at the Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Students (NORMINFAS) last 22 November 2012

Kezia Abigale P Narisma, Julie Anne M Abas, Pamela Francis Dianne T Yamit, Quennie L Jarales, Over-all Champion, Women's Rodeo Skills at the Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Students (NORMINFAS) last 22 November 2012

Larjun P Suson, Jestoni P Tion, Champion, Vocal Duet, Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Students (NORMINFAS) last 22 November 2012

Shearson Bob P Nano, Elijah Gabriel A Francisco, 3rd Place, Diversified Farming, at the Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Students (NORMINFAS) last 22 November 2012

Cheroll Don Lofranco, Lanesa Faith Mechicolaiz, Pamela Francis Dianne Yamit, 2nd Place, 4th Annual National Animal Science Quiz Show at the Venerable Knight Veterinarians Fraternity and Venerable Lady Veterinarians Sorority Visayas State University on 9 February 2013

Lindsey Faith V Tablan, Maico Jovi L Abao, David Jorey G Alfaro, Lorenz Albert E Sacapos, Justin Gabor, Various Karate Categories, Masanori Takahashi Shokotan National Karate Tournament, Japan Karate Association Main Chapter last 10 November 2012

Christian Aries A Paye, Maria Carmela S Cua, Semi-Finalist, 5th Visayas-Mindanao Debate Championship at the Cebu Normal University last 29 June 2012

Albert Wences C Daba III, ReineLuise W Cabreira, Mary Clarisse G Suan, Jan Guin Ban, Quarterfinalists, 5th Visayas-Mindanao Debate Championship at the Cebu Normal University last 29 June 2012

Isha Grace Quiao Vallinas, Chiquilyn F Galdo, Octofinalist, 5th Visayas-Mindanao Debate Championship at Cebu Normal University last 29 June 2012

Christian Aries A Paye, Maria Carmela S Cua, Grand Champion, 26th Mindanao Parliamentary Debate Championship at the Ateneo de Davao University last 31 August to 2 September 2012

Albert Wences C Daba III, ReineLuise W Cabreira, Quarterfinalist, 26th Mindanao Parliamentary Debate Championship at the Ateneo de Davao University last 31 August to 2 September 2012

Christian Aries A Paye, Maria Carmela S Cua, ReineLuise W Cabreira, Regional Qualifier, The Secretary's Cup, Representatives of the Universal Health Care Study Group last 17 December 2012

Chara Lee P Lacang, Adeva Jane H Esparrago, Sesharaine A Pedros, Honey C Alajeño, Maico Jovi L Abao, Lorenz Albert E Sacapos, Justin John A Gabor, Joseph G Cala, Various Karate Categories, PEC-PSC Pregame/ Batang Pinoy Qualifiers, Philippine Karate Association last 2 September 2012

Cori D Liwan, Sesharaine A Pedros, Various Karate Categories, Balingasag Karate Tournament at the Karatedo of New Era Association last 24 June 2012

Individual Awards

Rosalyn Abriol, 3rd Place, Pasture and Forage Identification, Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Students (NORMINFAS) last 22 Nov 2012

Dean Cris M Acabo (BS ChE 5), Delegate, Nestle Immersion for Leadership Excellence (MILE) 2013 at Nestle Philippines last 22-25 October 2012

Francis T Borja (BSCD 3), Delegate, Ateneo Student Leaders Assembly (ASLA), Ateneo de Manila University last 22 to 26 October 2012

John Dean R Añavieza (BS Chem 4), Delegate, Ninoy and Cory Aquino Leadership Journey , Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation (NCAF) and the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Center for Leadership last 8-10 February 2013

Dennis T Dominguez (BSChE 4), Delegate, 15th National Ayala Young Leaders Congress, Ayala Foundation Incorporated last 5 to 8 February 2013

Malcolm C Flores (BSAC 4), Exchange Student, 2011-2012 Global Undergraduate Exchange Program, The United States Department of States last 16 August 2011 to 5 May 2012

Roxette Joan W Flores (BSCD 3), Delegate, 15th National Ayala Young Leaders Congress , Ayala Foundation Incorporated / 5 to 8 February 2013

Roneil Galarion (BSBA 4), Delegate, Kizuna (Bond) Project, National Youth Commission (NYC) and Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), 10-19 December 2012, Delegate, ASEANtrepreneurship Youth Leaders Exchange , National Youth Commission / 24 February to 1 March 2013

Marianne Delle P Lagumbay (BSAC 3, Delegate, 7th Aboitiz Future Leaders Business Summit , Aboitiz Equity Ventures / 17-18 August 2012

Miguel Karlo C Macariola (BSCS 4), Champion, Digital Arts Open Competition, Iligan City Computing Fair, Mindanao State University — Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) / 21 Sept 2012

Franz Daryl Q Magriña (BSECE 5), Delegate, 7th Aboitiz Future Leaders Business Summit , Aboitiz Equity Ventures / 17-18 August 2012

Armando C Mata Jr (AB Philosophy 4), PAF ROTC Cadet of the Year / Armed Forces of the Philippines / 6 July 2012

Diogenes T Orhen (BSA 4), Champion, Flower Arrangement, Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Students (NORMINFAS), 22 November 2012

James Patrick R Santos (BSBA 4), Delegate, Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth (JENESYS) National Youth Commission (NYC), Japan International Cultural Center (JICC), and Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) / 10-18 April 2012

Charise J Vitor (BSA 4), 3rd Place, Fertilizer Identification, Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Students (NORMINFAS) / 22 Nov 2012

Princess Kimberly V Ubay-ubay (BSAC 3), Delegate, 7th Aboitiz Future Leaders Business Summit , Aboitiz Equity Ventures / 17-18 August 2012, Delegate, Ninoy and Cory Aquino Leadership Journey , Ninoy and Cory

Aquino Foundation (NCAF) and the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Center for Leadership / 8-10 February 2013, 1st Place, Environmental Proposal Competition, Ateneo National Environmental Conference, Ateneo de Manila University Sangunian, Environmental Society, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) / 8 to 10 June 2012

Organization Awards

STREAMS-Pathways to Higher Education , Mindanao Area Finalist, Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO), National Youth Commission (NYC), Team Kiko Foundation / 19 October 2012

The Xavier Stage , Official Main Entry 6th Tanghal National University and College-Based Theatre Festival and Conference, Official Main Entry, 4th National Theatre Festival / Cultural Center of the Philippines, Official Main Entry, 7th Tanghal Mindanao / National Commission for Culture and the Arts

Xavier University Parliamentary Debate Championship (XUAdCPDC), Grand Champion, 26th Mindanao Parliamentary Debate Championship, Ateneo de Davao University, 31 August to 2 September 2012

XU-PAF Reserved Officer Training Corps (XU-PAF ROTC), ROTC Department of Air Science and Tactics of the Year, Philippine Air Force Headquarters-Air Force Reserved Command / 3 December 2012

Category C: Organization Awards

Ignatius of Loyola Award for Outstanding College Council : Council of Nursing Students (CONUS)

Ignatius of Loyola Award for Outstanding Co-Curricular Organization : Philippine Association of Food Technologists (PAFTETA)

Ignatius of Loyola Award for Outstanding Extra-Curricular Organization : Xavier University Red Cross Youth (XURCY)

Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts Special Citations :

Achievement for Cultural and Artistic Excellence (Dance) - Xavier University Cultural Dance Troupe

Achievement for Cultural and Artistic Excellence (Choral Music) - Xavier University Glee Club

Achievement for Cultural and Artistic Excellence (Drama) - Dulaang Atenista

Achievement for Cultural and Artistic Excellence (Drama) - The Xavier Stage

Special Citation for Culture and the Arts (Music) - Xavier Philharmonia



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

About 1,800 students received their degrees in their chosen fields during the 74th university academic convocation and commencement exercises held on March 21-23.



Cardinal Tagle, commencement speaker

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio G Cardinal Tagle gave the commencement address through a video message at the academic convocation on March 21.

The cardinal had been expected to grace the convocation personally but

could not make it back on time after attending the installation of Pope Francis on March 19. Cardinal Tagle was the only Filipino Cardinal-elect at that conclave.

Engaging the graduates with his message from Rome, Cardinal Tagle first asked the graduating class of 2013 to give Pope Francis, the first Jesuit pope, a big round of applause. He then beckoned them to reflect on five points for understanding the life of pastors. These five points were sense of mission, listening to God, compassion and empathy for the poor, sensitivity to culture, and, finally, integrity.

"Being parents, being teachers, being responsible citizens, all of these also require being good pastors," Cardinal Tagle said. He emphasized that pastors are leaders but are also servants of the one who sent them. It is important to carry out our mission "in the spirit of compassion, communion

and empathy toward other people," he continued.

His challenge to the graduates was to contribute to the shaping of a new humanity and to become the "living vision that God wants to give to the Church."

"Pastors or not, I guess, we have the same dream," he said. "Let us recover a sense of mission born out of the openness to the calling of God to all of us."

In his 31 years as a priest, Cardinal Tagle has distinguished himself as a servant of God. He lives a life of humility exemplified by his loving care for the poor. He hosts the Sunday TV program "Pan Dasal" and teaches at the San Carlos Seminary, Loyola School of Theology, Divine Word Seminary and Maryhill School of Theology.

He had already served in the Diocese of Imus in various

capacities from 1982 to 2011 when he was installed as Archbishop of Manila. He is the chairperson of the Episcopal Commission on the Doctrine of the Faith of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, is a member of the Office of Theological Concerns of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences and is an elected member of the Council of the Synod of Bishops. He became a cardinal in October 2012.

Masterson Awardees, a couple

The graduation of Class 2013 was doubly special because the Fr William F Masterson SJ Award for outstanding community service was given to not one individual but to a couple: the husband-and-wife tandem of Dr Edgardo Valenzuela and Dr Christina Liamzon-Valenzuela.



The Valenzuelas addressed XU's graduating class with speeches that acknowledged the difficulty of becoming a leader or a change maker, but, at the same time, encouraged the new graduates to be creative in responding to socio-cultural, environmental and political problems, in ways big or small, and to contribute to nation building.

Dr Edgar Valenzuela called the present time "a truly exciting time globally." This was in reference, first, to the installation of a new Pope, a "Jesuit in training and practice, and striving to bring reform into the Church and reach out to all, particularly the poor and the needy," and, second, to our country's current situation as "riding the wave of the Asian tigers." For him, this is a great time for new graduates, especially those who are seeking local employment.

Dr Ed is an adjunct professor at the Ateneo de Manila School of Government. His initial professional services were coursed through founding and leading the Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Development and providing training for the Asian Cultural Development

in Bangkok. These were followed by his long service with the FAO of the United Nations, where he served the Bangkok, Thailand and Rome, Italy duty stations for more than 23 years. There, he was responsible for advocacies, such as the World Food Day, TeleFood and FAO Goodwill Ambassadors Programme of the Communication Division. He then led the Asian NGO Coalition for 7 years from 1983 to 1990.

Despite the heavy responsibilities of such positions, he managed to include the Associazione Pilipinas OFSPES (Overseas Filipinos Society for the Promotion of Economic Security) and the Sentro Pilipino Chaplaincy Rome Commission on Youth and Family as beneficiaries of his time and expert service.

Before he ended, Dr Ed told the graduates, "Let us not forget that we can pay forward or pay back and share to build society and the public good. And then we shall collectively reap the benefits for all, towards a more sustainable society."

More motivation and impetus came from Dr Cristina Liamzon-Valenzuela who called this occasion the beginning of the graduates' next great adventure in life, which is "even more so, an adventure that calls for being able to live life to its fullest – a present from God that should not be wasted." She explained living life to the fullest to mean starting out with a vision or purpose in life that serves as guide and motivation in pursuing life goals, which, it is hoped, are directed equally for self, family and society.

Tina has been working with civil society organizations in food security, gender and development, agrarian reform and rural development, and sustainable livelihood for more than 30 years. Starting 1990, she has been the president of the OFSPES (Overseas Filipinos Society for the Promotion of Economic Security). She has been collaborating with the Ateneo School of Government, the Philippine Embassy to Italy and the POLO/OVVA in Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship for the socio-economic and cultural empowerment of overseas Filipinos. She is also the co-director of the Sentro Pilipino Catholic Chaplaincy in Rome, in charge of the Family Ministry.

Tina reminded the graduates of our interconnectedness, how the earth has become so small in different ways that whatever we do can influence the rest of the country and the world. She cited the recent calamities that have wreaked destruction of human and natural life in various parts of Mindanao and the country.

As the ones who will have to meet the consequences of the present conditions, it is

the generation of the present graduates who must and need to do something concrete. That as they set out for their new jobs, new careers in various fields, they face a challenge: "Where and how to develop a mind-set that can see opportunities where others see only problems, to be inspired to think outside the box and be creative in addressing the socio-cultural, environmental and political problems, to be willing to go that extra mile, to be able to conquer the fears and insecurities that beset all new graduates toward focusing on being that new breed of leader, change maker or social entrepreneur." That as they meet the difficult but not impossible task of this new adventure in life, they will never regret taking this path.

Versatile student leader, class valedictorian

The class valedictorian of 2013 is Dean Cris M Acabo, a Kagayanon by birth with an academic track record for excellence. Graduating Salutatorian from Kauswagan Central School and with High Honors from the Philippine Science High School Central Mindanao campus, he has exhibited facility for and



GRADUATION HONORS 2013

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Sugar R Estrada, BS Chemical Engineering

Herabelle M Villanueva, BS Computer Science

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Dean Cris M Acabo, BS Chemical Engineering

Marjorie Pearl B Alvarez, BS Agribusiness

Edgar Emmanuel D Antiquina, BS Electronics Engineering

Arniel L Belarmino, BS Chemical Engineering

Ryza D Calunod, BS Business Administration

Ma Feliza Anne Bridgit C Damasing, BE Education

Krissa Mae R Doroin, BE Education

Jonah C Ladera, BA International Studies

John Vincent A Rañopa, BS Electronics Engineering

Ana Grace D Saab, BA Economics

Ira Ivana S Tejada, BS Accountancy

Neil Antonette Z Tolentino, BS Agriculture

CUM LAUDE

Ryan James B Aban, BS Accountancy

Almar May M Alba, BE Education

Kimberly A Alia, BS Civil Engineering

Jean Myra S Almodobar, BS Food Technology

Maria Jeza R Bagtasos, BA English Language and Lit. Studies

Jhala Grace Bahian, BS Accountancy

Jaeanne A Bayucot, BS Accountancy

Jonas-Noe P Belitor, BS Mechanical Engineering

Gillian R Bollozos, BE Education

Danah Marielle V Boniao, BE Elementary Education

Jovelyn Mae M Borbon, BS Business Administration

Engrid A Cabang, BS Agribusiness

Beverly Jean C Camay, BA International Studies

Trinnah Marie M Caracho, BS Development Communication

Jim Ryan E Catian, BS Psychology

Kimberly Daabay, BS Business Administration

Adeva Jane H Esparrago, BS Education

Asilla Antonette S Gaid, BS Business Administration

Gecirel D Ganas, BS Agribusiness

Janille Mariz A Garduque, BS Education

Eunice Joy M Gidacan, BE Education

Mark Paulo G Jabay, BS Nursing

Exelrose A Lumor, BA Economics

Hazel Angeline P Mabao, BE Education

Dorothy D Macasa, BS Food Technology

Karizze Fitzgeraldine M Maglacion, BS Business Administration

Franz Daryl Q Magriña, BS Electronics Engineering,

Kisha Elouise B Manla, BE Education

John Jr D Montemayor, BS Agribusiness

Vanessa E Mosqueda, BS Business Administration

Oliver Orville M Oliveros, BS Mechanical Engineering

John Jerald A Ong, BS Development Communication

Dirika D Pacamalan, BA International Studies

Stephanie B Pajo, BS Electronics Engineering

Nestor Charles A Punay, BS Psychology

Stanley Carl C Ramos, BS Business Administration

Mary Grace C Rañesis, BS Food Technology

Pauline Blaise Zharena O Roxas, BS Psychology

Jelina Rose W Rule, BS Business Administration

Gary M Sabijon, BS Business Administration

Charisse P Salarda, BS Development Communication

Zenelyn P Salinas, BS Agribusiness

Charisse Camille C Sia, BS Business Administration

Charmaine Camille C Sia, BS Business Administration

Reuven Kerr B Siose, BS Mechanical Engineering,

Daniele Mae F Tan, BS Computer Science

George L Tan, BS Accountancy

Neil Ryan P Tecson, BS Electronics Engineering

Sheryl Rose B Tee, BS Civil Engineering

Colleen Caryl Leslie C Torres, BA International Studies

Nathalie Curtny Valdehueza, BS Psychology

Jasmine C Villena, BS Civil Engineering

Rachelle Anne G Uy, BS Computer Science

Archie P Waminal, BS Mechanical Engineering

excellence in mathematics and leadership. His record of achievements in XU in his five years with the BS in Chemical Engineering program is an extension of those early years.

Dean was a consistent dean's lister and winner in chemistry and statistics competitions. As if maintaining an excellent academic record wasn't enough, he also stood out

among XU's and the country's young leaders in events such as the 14th National Ayala Young Leaders Congress, the Bank of the Philippine Islands' EXPAT students, the Nestle Philippines' Management Immersion for Leadership Excellence, the USAID Dimasangkay Sultanate, the XU Magis Awards, and the XU Central Student Government,

among many others.

Having been thrust into leadership positions early on, Dean told his fellow graduates to keep on learning and striving.

"We should not stop from learning as we must also keep on striving to be better," said Dean who also encouraged his fellow graduates to become

stronger, grow wiser and go farther.

"One greater challenge for each of us is to discern and see the greater good in everyone and for everyone," he continued. "As we move on, let us make everyday count – working for the greater good."





Mission and Ministry Cluster: Thinking ahead

by Libby Josephine M Abesamis



The Mission and Ministry Cluster had its Strategic Planning Workshop on Jan 14-15 at SEARSOLIN, Manresa Heights, Cagayan de Oro City. Representatives from the various formation units actively participated, with Engr Gerardo Doroja, dean of the College of Computer Studies, as the main facilitator.

The University Development Goals, particularly the aspect of “stronger formation,” were reviewed and revisited as a springboard to the whole planning process. The workshop made use of the “Balanced Scorecard Approach to Strategic Planning and Execution.” Key Result Areas (KRAs) and its corresponding strategic objectives were identified and thoroughly discussed by the participants. For the next five years, the KRAs for formation will include: a) Spiritual/Faith and Moral; b) Psycho-Emotional; c) Physical Wellness; d) Socio-Cultural; e) Mission and Service.

With a strategic plan for the cluster, it is hoped that more avenues for collaboration and synergy between and among the various formation units will be opened. Given the present challenges and new opportunities faced by the University, coming together and thinking ahead is all the more significant in moving toward better and stronger formation for students, faculty and staff. □





KKP calls for greater community involvement

by Wilson J Homeguera, Victoria Melissa C Pulido and Anitta Joy Nuevo, KKP Volunteer

The Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana – Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO), the social advocacy arm of Xavier University, facilitated and participated in several activities that promoted good governance, community vigilance and servant leadership.

Collaborative Service Learning Program - General Orientation Seminar

The Collaborative Service Learning Program - General Orientation Seminar (SLP-GOS) was held on Jan 9 at the AVR1. It was attended by

students and faculty members from the different colleges and departments of Xavier University. The activity intended to provide a venue for the participants to fully understand and appreciate their Service-Learning Engagement. SLP-GOS has provided the students and teachers of this semester's SLP engagements an orientation on and deeper understanding of its significant contribution to Xavier University's Greater Societal Engagement agenda. The academe participants came from the Psychology, Economics, Sociology, Accountancy, Business Administration, Education, Agribusiness, Agrieconomics, Civil Engineering and Computer Studies programmes.

To better facilitate the details of the SLP projects, our SLP

partner institutions attended the SLP-GOS as well. Robert dela Serna of the XU-FARM - Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Archie Alamban of the Pedro Calungsod PEACE Center contributed significantly to the discussions. Session 1 of the SLP-GOS, given by Nestor Banuag (KKP, Faculty Program Officer), was on Enhancing Social Formation through Service Learning, an enticing talk about extending the self from the four corners of the classroom to the experience of the outside – the community. This was to help the participants appreciate SLP not just as a requirement or a research paper but as an actual contribution to the school and the society. Session 2, focusing on various social engagements of SLP and their area of interventions and the general schedule of area works and other major activities, was given by Jeannette Guian (KKP Faculty Program Officer). Suggestions were made to extend the timeframe of the area work visits to build rapport with the community before conducting any surveys and interviews.

After the two sessions, the participants were divided according to their projects and were given time to discuss among themselves their outputs, timeframe and schedules. Each department was able to work and share their strengths and exemplified what Collaborative Service Learning Program is. Each cluster arranged their schedule for their area work to begin this month until the end of the year.

Responding to the call of Jesuit Father General Pedro Arrupe, the SLP-GOS was themed "Education for Social Justice."

Noise Barrage for a Safe CdeO

For three weeks, from February to March, megaphone sirens, whistles, car horns and clapping composed a noise barrage in front of the Student Entrepreneurship Program Mall entrance gate, calling for the city government, the city police officers, and all Kagayanons to work together for a peaceful Cagayan de Oro.





The call came after a number of innocent civilians and members of the XU community became victims of a series of holdup incidents, where some were not only robbed but also viciously killed. The XU community urged the City Government to convene the City's Peace and Order Council to respond immediately to the issue of public safety and security.

The activity also called on the different city police units to intensify their regular police operations, for police visibility and for intelligence committees to expedite the resolution of reported cases of crime and violence in the city. Moreover, the noise barrage sought the attention of line agencies in ensuring the strict monitoring and consistent implementation of the Election Gun Ban through police checkpoints and roving in barangays.

The KKP volunteers called for public vigilance in the face of growing apprehension and fear. They urged the community to report any knowledge and sightings of violent attacks and crimes, and to take precautionary measures to protect themselves and their properties.

People's March against Crime and Violence

Representing Xavier University, KKP volunteers, faculty and staff joined the People's March against Crime and Violence on March 17. The march, which was organized by the families of victims and was also attended by other civil society groups, the police, and

the army, advocated justice for the victims by calling on the authorities to search and arrest criminals, and strengthen their efforts to guarantee public safety and security.

The petition of indignation against rising criminality in Cagayan de Oro was read, strongly condemning "the senseless and unabated killings, the violent and brutal attacks against law-abiding citizens." Appalled and aghast over the "inaction and simplistic dismissal of the rise of crimes," it called on those who have been placed in positions of authority to protect the public, and for "swift decisive action... to identify and collar the perpetrators, and bring them to justice for their acts of unspeakable violence and human brutality."

Speaking on behalf of the city police, Police Senior Inspector Lemuel Gonda assured the public that the city's police is doing its best, and that it won't be able to succeed without the help and cooperation of the community in reporting suspects and not providing opportunity for the criminals.

Joshua Jariolne, KKP student volunteer, said he joined the march to let people know that



we can all do something other than being afraid. "At KKP, we are taught active non-violence as a principle. This march is an example."

Multi-Sectoral Voters Education Forum

KKP-SIO, in partnership with the City's Commission on Elections and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) – MisOr, held a Multi-Sectoral Voters Education Forum on March 20 at the XU Peace Park.

The forum had three parts: the presentation of the vision of Kagayanon for Good Governance (KGG) Movement, the presentation of the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) Machine, and the open forum. Engr Ermin Stan B Pimentel, KKP Director, presented KGG's vision, which is "an engaged, disciplined and responsive Kagayanon seeking leaders imbuing the people-centered altruism and political will of Mayor Justiniano Borja; the invigorating socio-cultural perspective of Fr Francisco Demetrio SJ; the visionary urban management of Mayor Reuben Canoy; the intelligent local governance formulation of Sen Aquilino Pimentel Jr; and the integrity and participatory housekeeping of Mayor Jesus Robredo, who, with and in their likes, will work for the rebuilding and sustainable development of Cagayan de Oro as a place that is as orderly and clean as Davao City; as environmentally protective as Puerto Princesa City; as culturally embracing

as Zamboanga City; as socially and politically empowered as Naga City; and as economically progressive as Cebu City."

Atty Aleli Ramirez, Cagayan de Oro Election Officer, facilitated the orientation and demonstration of the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) Machine. Atty Ramirez assured the public that the PCOS machine has 99.99% accuracy and that hacking is unlikely to succeed because of its very tight security. The open forum was facilitated by Mr Nestor Banuag Jr, NAMFREL Provincial Coordinator.

In her opening remarks, Dr Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, VP-RSO, said that XU works for good governance, and one of its approaches is the promotion of Responsible Citizenship. The forum, she added, is a good venue to bring people and civic organizations together to work for clean and honest elections.

Other than the KKP volunteers and some members of the Xavier community, also present during the forum were representatives from different barangays of the city, XUHS '70 alumni, Monark Foundation, KGG supporters, KGG Youth, Global Changemakers, Amnesty International, Urban Friends Society, Association of Youth Leaders in Northern Mindanao, Pilgrim Christian College – Supreme Student Council, and the National Youth Commission.



Five years of bringing culture and the arts to the region



Xavier Center for Culture and the Arts successfully celebrated 5 years of delivering, managing and implementing programs not only for the XU community but also for Northern Mindanao. XCCA dubbed its 5th cultural season as “*Kultura Singko: Celebrating 5 Years of Culture and Arts Excellence.*” Included

in “*Kultura Singko*” were various projects that promoted the priority programs and mission of XCCA and contributed to the fulfillment of Xavier University’s Development Goals.

Museo de Oro had a soft opening of its archaeological and historical exhibit (room 1) on September 21, 2012 after the completion of phase one of its renovation. With the help of Mr Jose Jaime Ignacio, Architect Earnest Soriano, Dr Erlinda Burton and all the personnel of Museo de Oro, Exhibit Room 1 was transformed into a high-end, more appealing and well-organized display of artifacts and other Museo de Oro collections showcasing the history and heritage of Cagayan de Oro.

The final phase of the Museo renovation will start in May. The improvement of the Ethnographic Exhibit, Museo Gallery, Archeological Laboratory, Conference Room and the offices are included in the final phase.

The curatorial work of Dr Erlinda Burton, the design of Mr Pennessencio “Nonoy” Estarte and the collections of Fr Francisco Demetrio SJ are the base framework of the redesigned Museo de Oro.

Collection Management and Restoration projects are also being implemented through grants from the National Commission of Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Artistic Excellence and Production. XCCA has received kudos as performing arts companies and other arts groups have flourished and promoted Xavier University not only in the region but also in other parts of the country. These performing arts companies have formed and honed the artistic potentials of the students, faculty and staff through various trainings and productions involving dance, music and theatre. The Center has also promoted Filipino and Mindanao culture. Through their regular performances, the students, as well as the faculty and staff, are given avenues to better appreciate and be involved in promoting and protecting our rich cultural heritage.





The Xavier University Glee Club led the Cagayan de Oro choral community to collaborate in a unity concert titled "*Iisang Bangka*." For two years, the XU Glee Club has been spearheading the project. In 2011, "*Iisang Bangka*" was showcased in the Immaculate Conception Chapel at XU and, in 2012, the said concert was staged at Capitol University.

In February 2013, the company staged "The Greatest Gifts: Faith, Hope and Love," featuring liturgical and love songs. "The Greatest Faith" was XU Glee Club's contribution to *Panaghugpong 5* – the Xavier Arts Festival.

Dulaang Atenista's 24th season "*KaWOMENan*" was successfully implemented. "*KaWOMENan*" included the plays "*Ang Pinakamakisig sa mga Nalunod sa Buong Daigdig, Ilang Anak*," a twin bill production, and "*Paano Kung Hindi Ka Na*."

"*Paano Kung Hindi Ka Na*" was DA's fringe entry to the 7th Tanghal Mindanao University Theatre Festival.

Dulaang Atenista is also known for its signature theatre form: improvisation. Their production "No Probs... It's Improvs" wowed their audiences. The combination of improvisation

exercises and games, being interactive and fun, delighted viewers.

In November 2013, DA, together with XCCA, will host the first ever Ateneo Theatre Festival that will showcase the various theatre companies of the various Ateneos in the country. Included in the fringe feature will be DA's sister companies: The Xavier Stage and the XU High School's Drama Cub.

The Xavier University Cultural Dance Troupe benchmarked with other dance companies and continued to build repertoires of dances. The company successfully staged "*Cultural Ka Ba?*" a production that challenged the audience to appreciate the Filipino culture through dance. Both the matinee and gala shows of "*Cultural Ka Ba?*" were well attended.

The Xavier Stage (TXS) and the Xavier Philharmonia are two new companies. The two-year old TXS has been featured as the main entry in various national theatre festivals, including the National Theatre Festival in 2012, the 6th and 7th Tanghal University Theatre Festivals and CCP's *Pasinaya* 2011 and 2012. TXS's second theatre season titled "Experience Modern Theatre. Experience

The Xavier Stage" attained the company's goal of promoting the works of modern dramatists Rabindranath Tagore, Paul Dumol and Bertolt Brecht. Promotion of quality life, a strong sense of family solidarity, and social justice and human rights were the themes of TXS' 2nd theatre season productions.

Xavier Philharmonia is conducting organizational development and trainings so that the company will attain sustained membership and develop a repertoire and pedagogy. The company has performed in various university functions, including major productions of XCCA. Their first recital concert last February was well attended and gained good reviews.

Further, the Museo de Oro showcased art works from multi-awarded and well renowned visual artists in Cagayan de Oro, such as Michael Bacol, Errol Balcos, Oca Floirendo, Ivan Macarambon, Jake Vamenta and other Oro Art Guild members. Various art exhibits have been held in the Museo de Oro Gallery since 2008.

XCCA's film festivals were much anticipated and well celebrated by the Northern Mindanao community. XCCA successfully partnered with the National Committee on Cinema of NCCA, DAKILA Inc, Goethe Institut, the French Embassy, the Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies, the Special Program for Cultural Cooperation of Institutu Cervantes and SM Cagayan de Oro in implementing various



CINEMAGIS
5th Digital Short Film Festival in Northern Mindanao

January 24, 2013
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
CINEMAGIS Film Workshop
XU Little Theater
6:30 pm
CINEMAGIS Presentation of
Nonness: Press Presentation and
Featured Film
XU Little Theater

January 25, 2013
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
CINEMAGIS Film Workshop
XU Little Theater
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Regular Film Screening
SM City Cinema 2
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Regular Film Screening
XU Little Theater

January 26, 2013
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Juror's Meeting
XCCA Conference Room
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Regular Film Screening
SM City Cinema 2
4:00 pm
CINEMAGIS 5th Digital Short Film
Festival Awards
SM City Atrium

Entrance requirement/donation
worth 15 - 20 Pesos, please choose one:
1) Napkin and Toilet Paper
2) Toothpaste and Bath Soap
3) Napkin and Bath Soap



film festivals.

Flagship Film Festivals of XCCA include *Cinemagis* – Digital Short Film Festival in Northern Mindanao; *Active Vista* Film Festival for Social Change; *Cinemulat*- Controversial Film Festival; *Cinedukasyon*, a film education program; the Spring Film Festival; and the Science Film Festival. Films featured in the festivals call for action on social change, social justice, protection and preservation of the environment, peace, sanitation, and good stewardship of culture and nation building.

The Artistic Excellence and Production program of XCCA complemented with the artistic and creative efforts of other institutions and universities in Mindanao. Capitol University, Mindanao University of Science and Technology, and Liceo de Cagayan University helped XCCA, and their performers were also featured in XU.

Cultural Education. *ArteKultura*, *Yamug*, Culture and Arts Lecture for students, faculty and staff, and Art for Life, among others, were successfully implemented. Museo de Oro's extension to

various academic institutions as well as tourists is one cultural education effort.

In 2013, XCCA, through the help of NCCA, PICEP and CCP, will promote a culture-based education program and offer trainings for teachers on culture-based curricula and syllabi. XCCA also hopes to offer short-term programs on culture and the arts.

Culture and Development.

XCCA's performing arts companies held community outreach workshops and performances.

Dulaang Atenista and Xavier Glee Club supported the Summer of Service program of KKP-SIO in 2012. The Xavier University Cultural Dance Troupe performed in *barangays* and other municipalities for cultural promotion.

The Xavier Stage conducted workshops to children in *Gugma sa Kabataan* in Cagayan De Oro and in Zamboanguita, Malaybalay, Bukidnon through its *Akay sa mga Bata* Program.

In March 2012, XCCA held "*Kalinga ng Sining*," an outreach program supported

by the Cultural Center of the Philippines. In "*Kalinga ng Sining*" were performances by various Cagayan de Oro performing arts companies, including Novo Concertante and Bayang Barios, and a skit on solid waste management. More than 2000 children and youth from Xavier Ecoville, Calaan and other relocation sites witnessed the program. A memorial ceremony was also held at the Rodelsa Rotunda during which His Excellency Archbishop Antonio Ledesma DD gave a message.

The Center also implemented Voters' Education programs in 2010 with XU's National Service Training Program (NSTP), and in 2013, with the NSTP, Namfrel, the local government unit of Medina, Misamis Oriental and SM City Cagayan de Oro.

XCCA also coordinates for the Philippine Art Awards (PAA) through Museo de Oro. Its coordination has produced top winners including Jake Vamenta who won the grand prize last year.

Culture and Arts Research, Documentation and Publication

are programs that need more attention and personnel. For now, most of the tasks of these programs are incorporated in various program implementations. Nevertheless, XCCA was still able to implement researches on language and culture, gender and semiotics. It also conducted a culture and arts needs survey. The Center also published a collection of Mindanao Folktales called "*Gugud Mindanao*" and its own newsletter, "*Guimba*."

Culture and Arts Support Service Program.

XCCA can support culture and arts related programs initiated by other university units. The Students Activities and Leadership Development Program of the Office of Student Affairs, the Development Communication Department, Office of Mission and Ministry, Research and Social Outreach cluster, National Service Training Program and the Campus Ministries are just a few of those who have taken advantage of XCCA's support services. □



Athletics round up

by Vincent LI Padilla

The University Athletics Office (UAO) is well-occupied even as school year 2012-2013 closes.

For this summer, in coordination with the Athletics Offices of the Grade School and High School, UAO has organized the Fr Jorge P Hofileña SJ Crusaders Summer Camp, a sports camp named in honor of the late XUGS principal and basketball coach. This summer's Summer Camp has 194 participants undergoing training in the main campus, in addition to those who are training in the XUGS campus, on basketball, volleyball, football, table tennis, chess, badminton, swimming,

taekwondo and karatedo.

Aside from the Summer Camp, the UAO is coordinating the Alaska (JoLas) Cup, which is on its 10th season. This year's Alaska Cup features basketball players who are 10 years old & under, a new addition to what used to be just teams from the grade school (12 years & under), high school (14 years & under, and 17 years & under) and college (21 years & under). The Alaska Cup started through the effort of Mr Jojo Lastimosa 10 years ago to promote basketball at the grassroots. Alaska Milk Corporation has been sponsoring this endeavor with UAO.

This school year, the UAO had been involved in various activities and programs, namely, the College Intramurals, the

COSAA Games Season 8, the Barkadahan Tournament, the Inter-Council Sportsfest, Copa Estudyantes, the 1st College Alumni Basketball and Volleyball Games, and the XU Faculty & Staff Wellness, Fitness and Sports Program.

In September 2012, the UAO re-launched the Faculty & Staff Wellness, Fitness and Sports Program with a Fun Walk and Run. The Wellness Program is an offshoot of the 1st Strategic Planning on the Faculty & Staff Wellness, Fitness and Sports Program by stakeholders who identified areas of concern. As a result, the UAO facilitated and organized different activities (basketball every Tuesdays and Fridays, badminton every Tuesdays and Thursday, aerobic exercise every Saturday morning, and, lately, every Tuesday and Friday evening) to provide venues

for the faculty and staff to be physically engaged. The UAO also officially opened the Weights (Fitness) Gym for the use of the faculty and staff. At present, some 20 members of the XU community, excluding varsity players, are using the weights gym.

Apart from the activities organized for the XU community, the office also engaged in different community outreach programs, namely, Grow-A-Tree, Save-The-Future initiated by William Malagar and Rev Fr Boy Salvador SSJV of the St Francis Xavier Chaplaincy, and the multi-sectoral Dagan Kagay-an, a fund-raising and memorial fun run in honor of Sendong victims and survivors. □

Xavier University
ATENEO DE CAGAYAN

80th Anniversary
THE RUBY JUBILEE
1933 - 2013

Forming Leaders the
Ateneo Way

Xavier magazine
Ateneo de Cagayan

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